

Early Years Inclusion Fund
3 and 4 year olds in pre-school/ nursery (Foundation Stage 1)
Schools and private, voluntary or independent early years settings

GUIDANCE 2022

The Early Years Inclusion Fund is intended to support the inclusion, participation and progress of children with special educational needs and disabilities in the early years. The fund will enable pre-school children with SEND to access their early years entitlement and in support of early intervention and inclusion.

All early years settings, nursery schools and infant and primary schools with nursery classes in Derby City can make requests to the fund in for 3 & 3 year old children in foundation stage 1.

The funding is to support children with emerging needs (children receiving SEN Support) within a Derby City early years settings. The early years are a key period for children with additional support needs and a good start can contribute significantly to later development and offset factors that may place a child at risk.

Additional funding for children with exceptional, highly specialist and highly complex needs is provided to schools and early years settings through the Education, Health and Care Assessment process (currently through the E3 application process). You cannot apply for funding from the EYIF for children with an EHCP.

The Early Years Inclusion fund is for 3 & 4 year old children receiving SEND Support. The fund will be a contribution towards the costs and cannot be used to subsidise the cost of childcare.

It is expected any provision of additional funding from the Early Years Inclusion Fund will lead to an increase in staff knowledge and skills and attitudes which will increase the settings future capacity to include children with significant and complex needs.

Types of Support

Schools/ settings can make a request for funding to contribute to the additional costs associated with providing for children with SEND and may include:

- Training for staff to support named children
- Specialist advice/ support not available for free from the NHS or LA services
- To enable the setting to deliver targeted interventions/ programmes
- To enable a child to access the learning environment safely
- When a childminder takes on fewer children so as to be able to provide additional support to a child

The amount of funding provided

All requests for additional funding from the Early Years Inclusion Fund will be considered by a panel of early years representatives and Local Authority employees who work with children in the early years. See separate Terms of Reference for the panel.

Panel members will review all requests and panel members will decide the banding based on the evidence provided in the request form.

There are 4 bands and requests will fall into one of these bands. The minimum amount the setting will receive is shown below.

No EYIF Agreed	£0
Low Band	£200
Medium Band	£500
High Band	£900
V. High Band	£1300

Funding is provided per term and settings will need to make a new application each term.

If external support agencies are involved we would expect you to ask their advice about the type and level of support the child needs and to note this on the request form.

If the child is in receipt of Disability Living Allowance and is 3 years of age or older the setting can also request additional funding from the Disability Access Fund (DAF).

Adult support works best when it is clearly focused on the development of particular skills, rather than simply used to encourage children to participate in activities which have not been sufficiently differentiated to match their ability.

Where required, a child's key person should aim to:

- promote the child's feelings of success and achievement
- increase the degree to which the child is responsible for their own learning and choices
- develop the child's independence.

Process by which funding will be allocated

Settings must complete a Request for Funding form.

Decisions on requests will be made once per term for funding for that term only. The funding is not confirmed until a letter is received detailing the amount that has been agreed.

If a child attends more than one setting the funding will only be provided to the setting(s) claiming government funding for the place.

Decisions on requests will be made by panel representatives and confirmed by letter to the setting within 3 weeks of the date of the panel. Funding may then take longer to transfer.

Monitoring and evaluation

Expenditure of the funding will be monitored through support visits made by Derby City Local Authority staff to the setting and by the EYIF Working Group.